



Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

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Dear Broad Run District Resident:

As your representative on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, I am pleased to once again provide you with an annual update on the Board's activity. During the past year, the Board has continued to make progress in our core objectives of improving the local transportation network, increasing economic development and adequately funding public services.

FY 2016 Fiscal Plan: On April 1st, the Board voted 7-2 to adopt a fiscal plan for FY 2016. I voted in favor of this plan because I think it balances the need to fund core functions of government with fiscal responsibility. Highlights of this \$2.2 billion plan include fully funding the Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS), budget enhancements in public safety to keep pace with population growth, and a continued focus on building transportation infrastructure. In my opinion, this was the smoothest budget process in the past four years and exemplified the excellent cooperation that exists between the Board of Supervisors, School Board and LCPS Superintendent Dr. Eric Williams. Dr. Williams' new leadership has been instrumental in facilitating this cooperation.

LCPS Operating Budget: The FY 2016 Fiscal Plan increased the LCPS budget by \$70.1 million to \$982.1 million, a 7.7% increase over the prior year, fully funding the School Board's request. This increase includes \$57.8 million in new local tax funding, a 9.6% increase. The fiscal plan addresses an increase of 2,522 new students, a 3.4% increase of the previous year and leaves significant new funding for teacher raises, new technology and an expansion of full-day kindergarten. Since 2012, the Board has invested an additional \$215 million in LCPS, a 28% increase. These increases have allowed the cost-per-pupil, a metric that takes into account student enrollment growth, to grow from \$11,014 to \$12,705, a 15.4% increase.

Property Tax Rate: To fund this budget, the Board of Supervisors adopted a property tax rate of \$1.135/per hundred in assessed value, which is a two cent reduction from last year. On average, this tax rate should keep tax bills flat compared with last year despite rises in assessments. Additionally, we were able to commit an additional \$10 million of FY 2015 surplus funding, known as fund balance, to assist in fully funding LCPS. This surplus was available due to stronger than expected revenue growth, especially in the commercial sector. It's great to see the Board's economic development strategy paying off in the form of additional revenue to fund priorities like education without needing a raise taxes.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP): In addition to the operating budget, the Board adopted a \$488 million CIP to fund capital projects for both general government and public schools for FY 2016. This plan continues the Board's priorities of 'catching up' on vital infrastructure like roads and schools that are sorely needed due to all the growth we have experienced. Below are some projects that are important for the Broad Run District.

Transportation Improvements:

- *Belmont Ridge Road:* Widening is fully funded between Route 7 and Brambleton. Engineering and design work is currently underway, and the entire road should be widened by 2019.
- *Gloucester Parkway:* Construction is well underway to complete Gloucester between Route 28 and Loudoun County Parkway. This improvement will take approximately one-third of the current traffic off Waxpool Road and is scheduled for completion in July 2016.
- *Route 7 Interchanges:* Interchanges are planned and funded at Ashburn Village Boulevard and Belmont Ridge Road. Contractors are in place for both projects and construction should commence shortly.
- *Route 28 Widening:* Route 28 southbound will be widened to four lanes from Sterling Boulevard to the Dulles Toll Road. Construction is already underway to widen the bridge over the Dulles Toll Road and the rest of the widening should start shortly.
- *Waxpool Road Intersection Improvements:* Traffic flow improvements are funded at the intersections of Loudoun County Parkway, Prentice Road, Pacific Boulevard and Smith Switch Road. These improvements will include additional turn lanes. Construction will begin in 2016.
- *Claiborne Parkway:* Construction will begin this fall to connect Claiborne between Croson Lane and Ryan Road.
- *Russell Branch Parkway:* Construction is currently underway to connect between Ashburn Village Boulevard and Ashburn Road. Scheduled for completion in spring 2016.
- *Route 606:* Widening from Evergreen Mills Road to the Greenway will be completed by 2017.

- *Loudoun County Parkway*: Scheduled for completion between Brambleton and Route 606 in 2017.
- *Prentice Drive Extension*: \$63 million in funding is allocated in FY 2019 and FY 2020 to build a new bridge across the Broad Run between Waxpool Road and the Greenway.
- *Farmwell Road Widening*: \$7 million is funded in FY 2016 to widen Farmwell Road to six lanes between Ashburn Road and Smith Switch Road.

School Projects:

- *Academies of Loudoun*: Approved in a bond referendum last fall, approximately \$114 million has been set aside in FY 2016 for this magnet high school that will focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and will be located off Sycolin Road.
- *MS 7 and ES 21*: The most challenging discussion in the entire FY 2016 budget process was around the School Board's requested acceleration of these two Dulles area schools due to higher than expected growth. Both Boards were able to work together to identify other projects that could be moved out of the CIP to make room for these two schools in the next three years.

Parks and Recreation Projects:

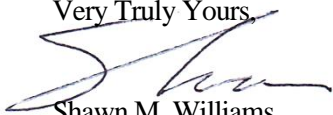
- *Ashburn Recreation and Community Center*: This recreation and community center will include an indoor lap pool, leisure pool and fitness center. \$67 million is funded between FY 2017 and FY 2018, which includes \$14 million in proffer funding and will be located off Belmont Ridge Road in Broadlands.
- *Ashburn Senior Center*: \$7.8 million is funded to build this Senior Center in FY 2017. Because of the growing senior population in the Ashburn area, this center is needed and I was very pleased to be able to place it in the CIP. It will be located on a proffered site off Marblehead Drive.

Economic Development: In 2014, Loudoun's Department of Economic Development was involved in attracting thirty-nine businesses to either re-locate or expand in Loudoun, approximately a \$250 million total investment and about 2,600 new jobs. Twenty-two Loudoun based companies were named to Inc. Magazine's 1,000 Fastest Growing Companies in the United States. The rural economy is growing as well. Eight new wineries opened in Western Loudoun, bringing the County total to forty-two. What makes this all the more noteworthy is that many neighboring jurisdictions are going in the opposite direction and while the commercial office market continues to be challenged with an uncertain federal budgetary environment we are significantly outpacing our neighbors.

Metrorail Silver Line Update: Earlier this year Board voted to approve the name "Ashburn" for the Route 772 station and "Loudoun Gateway" for the Route 606 station. I think these names will help create the needed 'sense of place' around both station areas. In late 2014, the County closed on a federal loan for our portion of this project with the highly favorable interest rate of 2.87%. The federal funding will save Loudoun taxpayers millions of dollars over conventional financing. Additionally, the federal loan approved for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority should help keep tolls from rising on the Dulles Toll Road, which is great news for many Loudoun commuters. On a less fortunate note, it was announced in April that Phase Two of the Silver Line to Loudoun will be delayed by thirteen months due to safety engineering changes and new environmental regulations. While this delay is unfortunate, this revised timeline, with completion scheduled in late 2019/early 2020, should be a more realistic goal.

On a personal note, I wanted to let you know that I will not be running for re-election this fall. It has been my distinct honor and privilege to serve you over the past three and a half years. I am proud of the major strides we have made for the Broad Run District in terms of transportation options, public facilities and economic development. I truly hope I have left the community in a better place than before I began my term. In the meantime, I will be working hard until the end of this year to address any constituent issues or concerns. Please let me know if there are any county issues, questions or concerns you have. For more frequent updates, sign up for my email newsletter and 'like' my Facebook page at www.loudoun.gov/broadrun, email me at shawn.williams@loudoun.gov or call my office at 703-771-5088.

Very Truly Yours,



Shawn M. Williams
Broad Run District Supervisor

About the Board of Supervisors: Loudoun County is governed by a nine-member Board of Supervisors. The chairman of the Board is elected by the voters at large. The other supervisors are elected from each of eight election districts in the county. All nine members serve concurrent terms of four years. The Board sets county policies, adopts ordinances, appropriates funds for local services like education and public safety, regulates land use, plans transportation infrastructure and carries out other responsibilities set forth by state law.